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Attorney Docket No. <u>YOR920000679US1</u>

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): S. Ma et al.
Docket No.:   YOR920000679US1
Serial No.:   09/918,253
Filing Date: July 30, 2001
Group: 2172
Examiner: Jean M. Corrielus

Title: Systems and Methods for Discovering
              Mutual Dependence Patterns

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance included in the Notice of Allowability dated August 26, 2004 in the above-identified application.
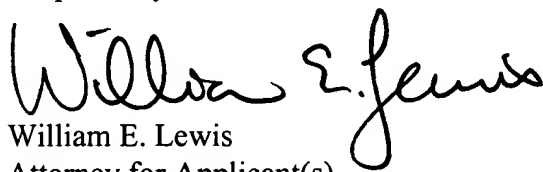
REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the allowance of all pending claims of the present application. However, regarding the recitation of certain claim language under the "Reasons for Indicating Allowable Subject Matter" section on page 3 of the Notice of Allowability, Applicants point out certain inconsistencies.

Regarding claim 3, the above-mentioned section of the Notice of Allowability suggests that such claim recites "identifying one or more sets of items in the input data set as one or more patterns based on respective comparisons of conditional probability values associated with each of the sets of items to a predetermined mutual dependence threshold value." However, claim 3 is a dependent claim that recites "wherein the predetermined threshold value is between zero and one." Applicants believe that the Examiner may have intended to reference one of the independent claims rather than dependent claim 3.

Regarding claims 16 and 34, the above-mentioned section of the Notice of Allowability suggests such independent claims recite "identifying a set of items in the input data set as a pattern when the set of items has a conditional probability value computed for the set of items minus a particular item of the set, given the particular item of the set, that is not less than a predetermined threshold value." However, this limitation is not recited in claims 16 and 34.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 31, 2004

2